

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 765

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION to commend Barry Cooper for his years of distinguished service as a member of the Bedford County Board of Education.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those selfless Tennesseans who have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm throughout their years of public service; and

WHEREAS, Barry Don Cooper is one such estimable person who has served with probity for eighteen years on the Bedford County Board of Education, including sixteen years of meritorious service as chairman; and

WHEREAS, having distinguished himself in his years of service to this estimable institution, Barry Cooper recently announced that he will be taking a much deserved retirement from the Bedford County Board of Education in August 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper first gained a seat on the Bedford County Board of Education in 1994, and subsequently won re-election to serve a total of four terms; and

WHEREAS, he was selected to serve as chair for sixteen of his eighteen years on the board, and Barry Cooper's tenure in that prestigious post has seen the Bedford County school system seek to excel in every way; and

WHEREAS, under his leadership, Bedford County schools have enjoyed the construction and renovation of many school buildings and the Bedford County Board of Education has been designated a "Board of Distinction" by the Tennessee School Board Association; and

WHEREAS, also a leader outside the field of education, Barry Cooper was elected to the Duck River Electric Corporation board of directors, which he serves as secretary, and he is a

member of the First Community Bank board of directors, and past member of the Argie Cooper Library board; and

WHEREAS, active in his community, Mr. Cooper has lent his time and talents to a number of local civic and charitable organizations, including the local Chamber of Commerce, the Tennessee Walking Horse Association, and the Shelbyville Rotary Club, which he served as president and assisted in the group's organ donor program, Career Day at Motlow College, and the distribution of dictionaries to elementary school students; and

WHEREAS, born in Shelbyville, Tennessee, on December 12, 1953, Barry Don Cooper is the son of Kenneth and Faye Cooper, attended Bedford County schools, and graduated from Shelbyville Central High School in 1971; and

WHEREAS, after graduating with honors from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville with a degree in accounting, Mr. Cooper obtained his license as a Certified Public Accountant and accepted a position with the accounting firm of Pete, Marwick, Mitchell, and Company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper later joined the firm of Winnett Associates, became a partner, and stayed with the firm for thirteen years before leaving the company to help in the family business, Cooper Steel, Incorporated, after his father was in a serious auto accident; and

WHEREAS, currently serving with acumen and alacrity as treasurer of Cooper Steel, Incorporated, Mr. Cooper has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and customers alike for the exemplary quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cooper is an active and highly respected member of his faith community at First Baptist Church in Shelbyville where he has served as a deacon for twenty-five years, taught Vacation Bible School and in the Awana program, led Sunday school classes as a substitute, and served on the stewardship, personnel, and pastor search committees; and

WHEREAS, he is thankful for the loving companionship of his wife, Pamela Jane Renegar Cooper; he is the proud father of two children, Terry Cooper and Arenda Hayes, and has four grandchildren, Allie, Blake Downey, Delaney, and Maddox Cooper; and

WHEREAS, Barry Cooper exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Cooper has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and the public alike; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Barry Cooper on the occasion of his retirement from the Bedford County Board of Education, thank him for all he has done to improve the quality of education for the children of Bedford County, salute his professional expertise and personal excellence, and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.